UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-V.-

MERCOPIONSKIN | ORDER

STEVEN DIGSBY,

21 Cr. 145 (PGG)

Defendant.

WHEREAS, the Court has referred to the Magistrate Judge on duty the change-of-plea proceeding (the "Proceeding") for defendant Steven Digsby, to be scheduled for August 30, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Court has authorized the use of videoconferencing (or teleconferencing, if video is not reasonably available) for felony pleas under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, *see In re: Coronavirus/Covid-19 Pandemic*, 20 Misc. 176 (June 15, 2021);

WHEREAS, the defendant has consented to the use of videoconferencing (or teleconferencing, if video is not reasonably available) for the Proceeding;

WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic necessitates that the proceeding take place remotely;

WHEREAS the Court understands that the Magistrate Judge on duty shall hear the defendant's plea by telephone because video teleconference is not reasonably available;

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS that because the defendant has consented to proceeding remotely, and for the reasons set forth in the parties' letter of August 17, 2021, the Proceeding cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Proceeding, to be scheduled for August 30, 2021, shall be conducted before the duty Magistrate Judge by teleconferencing.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: New York, New York

August 17, 2021

THE HONORABLE PAUL G. GARDEPHE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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